

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application and indicating that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-7 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended and claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, and 5-7 are currently pending in the present application.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of now canceled, original claims 3 and 4. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claim 7 has been amended to replace the instance of “tackiness sheet” with “adhesive sheet.” No new matter has been added by way of this amendment as support for this amendment may be found, for example, in original claim 5.

III. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that there is

insufficient antecedent basis for the term “tackiness sheet” in claim 7. By way of this reply, claim 7 has been amended to replace “tackiness sheet” with “adhesive sheet” as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102/103

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 6,503,961 issued to Okazaki et al. By way of this reply, claim 3 has been canceled, and therefore, the rejection of this claim is now moot. With respect to independent claims 1 and 5, these claims have been amended by way of this reply to incorporate the limitations of original claims 3 and 4. Because original claim 4, which depends from claim 3, was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, amended independent claims 1 and 5 are now allowable. Dependent claims 2, 6, and 7 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102/103 rejections of claims 1, 2, and 5-7 is respectfully requested.

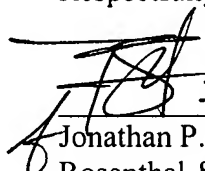
V. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03310.024001).

Date:

12/23/03

Respectfully submitted,


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